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Course CMP 230

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Article URL: <http://news.yahoo.com/sex-change-might-not-bar-wannabe-beauty-queen-015725344.html>

**Article Summary:**

In the article ‘Sex Change might not bar wannabe beauty queen by the Associated Press’, states that a transgender woman may be allowed to compete in the Miss Universe pageant.

Jenna Talackova, 23, was born a male. She has lived as a female since the age of 4; started hormone therapy at age 14, and at 19 had a sex change operation to become a woman. In a previous interview Jenna has stated that she regards herself as a woman with history. She reached the finals for the Miss Canada title but was prohibited to compete further because she was born a male. As per the Miss Universe policies a woman must be “naturally born a female” to compete.

However, Jenna may take legal action against the Miss Universe organization and is being represented by a high profile lawyer. According to her legal representation, Miss Universe’s policy about gender recognition is "incomprehensible." The policy is not in sync with the Canadian human rights laws.

Since Jenna announced that she may file a suit against the pageant, Miss Universe has retracted itself. It now claims that Jenna may be able to participate if she is able to pass the Canadian legal gender recognition exam.

**Reflection:**

The case between Jenna Talackova and The Miss Universe pageant has become a hot debate amongst people around the world. Some people feel sympathetic towards Jenna and feel that the pageant is discriminating against her. They have gone as far as comparing her to the blacks and Jews who were not allowed to compete in the pageant’s early start. I am completely against discrimination of any type, but I don’t see how this case can be compared to race discrimination.

Jenna was born a male and therefore is not ‘a natural born female’ as the pageant requires. I would be curious to learn more about Jenna’s case. For example: Was she born with two genders? How did her parents determine to have her live as a female at the age of 4? At this point, I don’t believe Jenna should be allowed to compete in the Miss Universe pageant.

Jenna is a very beautiful ‘woman’ and could easily win the title if we were just looking at beauty. However, she is a transgender competing in a female’s competition. She visibly has enhancements to become a woman. Would it be ok for a woman to compete in a transgender beauty pageant or better yet, for Mr. World? I don’t think so… This is why everybody has a pageant of their own. The transgender have their pageants, females and males have their own. I wonder what the next hot topic debate will be pushed down our throats. , ‘A monkey wants to become an elephant?’